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A. P. RENEWS PLEA TO OPEN RED CHINA

Board Assails Ban on Visas
for Newsmen—Radio Free
Europe and 'Voice' Chided

Text of AP directors' report
will be found on Page 10.

By BILL BECKER

Qualified American reporters should be permitted to enter Communist China, the board of directors of The Associated Press said yesterday.

Criticizing the State Department's ban on visas for United States newsmen in that country, the board declared:

"The Associated Press disagreed with the Government's action and the board at this time states again that it believes qualified newsmen should be allowed to report from the mainland from the mainland."

The statement was contained in the annual report of the board to the members of the world-wide news organization meeting during the week-end in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

"We are determined to encounter the barriers of domestic scene and abroad," the day-by-day efforts to cut through the barriers of restriction.

The board stressed, however, that there has been some improvement in coverage from the Communist-dominated area, but that the major barrier is the Iron Curtain. The board also stressed the status quo in Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

The board noted a gap in coverage, one that has caused much controversy, is Communist China. We were invited by the Chinese, along with other, to send a reporter into the country. The United States Department of State refused permission and threatened serious sanctions.

At that time, the A. P. made its first protest. Yesterday's statement was intended as a forceful, formal reiteration.

The seventeen-man board is headed by Robert McLean, president of the association and

Another verbal slap at United States policy was taken more obliquely by Endre Marton, former Associated Press resident correspondent in Hungary.

Mr. Marton declared that American radio broadcasts had encouraged Hungarian freedom fighters in their revolt last October.

The broadcasts of the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe, particularly the latter, Mr. Marton said, had led the anti-Communist rebels to "expect something—and nothing has happened."

The average Hungarian feels "let-down," the correspondent told about 250 persons attending the A. P. afternoon meeting.

"Only an insignificant minority expected armed intervention," Mr. Marton said. "Far more expected arms shipment."

He told of standing before the American Legation in Budapest last fall as demonstrators yelled:

"Why don't you send us arms? We don't want your boys."

Mr. Marton called some of the Radio Free Europe broadcasts from Munich "a disaster." He said that, without intention to incite, "they made promises."

Linked to 1952 Campaign

Part of the effect they had on Hungarians, he added, could be traced back to the American political campaign in 1952, "when there were several promises made."

Mr. Marton did not elaborate other than to say "Some Senators and others" made those promises.

"This Hungary will never forget," Mr. Marton told the new executives.

He and his wife, Iona Nyilas who worked for The United Press in Hungary, recently received a special George Polk Memorial Award for their journalistic achievements.

"Watch out for Ireland," Mr. Marton advised the newsmen. "Let's not be caught flat-footed again. This will be the great test for the West."

The Hungarian revolt, though crushed, achieved something important, Mr. Marton said, explaining: "The Hungarians do not fear any more. They found themselves. They trust each other."

He did not hold out much hope for another uprising in native Hungary in the immediate future. The regime of Premier Janos Kadar has reclaimed the old Stalinist bid, Mr. Marton said. Any resurgent move now, he added, would be "national suicide."

Panel Discounts War Threat

Other A. P. men appearing on a panel agreed that the Soviet Union at present appeared to have too many economic problems to become involved in a war. The panel also discussed

news analyst, Ben Bassett, foreign editor, was moderator.

The directors' report added that, despite the State Department's ban, the A. P. did get first-hand reporting from Communist China by commissioning a Canadian newspaper man, David Lancashire, to make a tour of the country. He wrote a series of articles and illustrated them with his own photographs.

A substantial expansion of A. P. operations at home and abroad was reported. This included a net gain of more than 100 radio and television station members.

Seventeen newspapers, hitherto associate members, were voted to regular membership. They are:

The Chico (Calif.) Enterprise-Record; The Lancaster (Calif.) Antelope Valley Ledger-Gazette; The Monterey (Calif.) Peninsula Herald; The Pasadena (Calif.) Independent; The Whittier (Calif.) News; The Greenwich (Conn.) Time; The Sarasota (Fla.) News; The Chicago Daily Sun-Times; The Olney (Ill.) Daily Mail; The Brazil (Ind.) Times; The Fairfield (Iowa) Daily Ledger; The Alliance (Neb.) Times-Herald; The Hicksville (L.I.) Center Island Daily News; The Morgantown (W. Va.) News-Herald; The Dubois (Pa.) Courier-Express; The Erie (Pa.) Morning News and